

COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE TO MARCH 5, 2025 (8:30 a.m.)

Correspondence

- (1) 2 submissions, February 26, 2025, regarding Pay Parking Expansion**
- (2) 2 submissions, February 26 and 27, 2025, regarding Arts Facility in Horseshoe Bay**
- (3) D. Marley, February 26, 2025, regarding ““Surrey leads revolt against Metro” - February 26th edition”**
- (4) C. Peters, March 1, 2025, regarding “URGENT: Cathy Peters- Hard drugs full decriminalization needs to be repealed in BC- this may stop Trump tariffs”**
- (5) March 2, 2025, regarding “F&RAC report, of February 26th, to Council concerning District budget for 2025”**
- (6) March 2, 2025, regarding “RE: Amendment to the Wildfire Hazard DPA Designation” (Referred to the March 31, 2025 Public Hearing)**
- (7) March 3, 2025, regarding “District of West Vancouver Using X Concern”**

Correspondence from Other Governments and Government Agencies

- (8) P. Weiler, M.P. (West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country), February 28, 2025, regarding “February 2025 Digital Newsletter”**

Responses to Correspondence

No items.

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 9:43 AM
To: correspondence
Subject: Pay Parking...NO

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Although council's consideration of Pay Parking in west van seems limited to popular parks, it feels like a slippery slope that will soon lead to other areas. As [REDACTED] s. 22(1) resident of West Van, one of the small benefits is no pay parking. It is the bane of my existence when I have to go downtown. Not only the cost, but the pain of having to download/watch the parking apps. I know the auto reading license plates tech of today makes it more efficient, but the true net benefit hardly seems worth it.

I'm totally against going the route of big city parking.

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

West Van, [REDACTED] s. 22(1)

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 12:45 PM
To: correspondence
Cc: Mark Sager, Mayor; Christine Cassidy; Nora Gambioli; Peter Lambur; Scott Snider; Sharon Thompson; Linda Watt
Subject: Pay Parking at parks is a TERRIBLE idea

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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

West Vancouver is not populated solely by the affluent.

Many are long, long, term citizens of this city and living on fixed incomes.

For many, a walk around Ambleside Beach or a stroll on the seawall is the only accessible exercise, and opportunity for socialization that they have.

Put pay parking near trendy shops and restaurants, but let people park for free IN THE PARK, and let them access the seawall without having to pay parking.

I speak as one of a large number of people with a long history AND long memories. Memories that extend to the next election.

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

West Vancouver, BC
CANADA [REDACTED] s. 22(1)

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 5:53 PM
To: correspondence
Subject: Fwd: Horseshoe Bay location for the art museum

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In my initial send of this email I had correspondence@ cc'd. I'm now sending this directly to this email address for publication.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Date: Wed, 26 Feb 2025 at 17:49
Subject: Horseshoe Bay location for the art museum
To: <mark@westvancouver.ca>, <ccassidy@westvancouver.ca>, <lwatt@westvancouver.ca>, Peter Lambur <plambur@westvancouver.ca>, <ssnider@westvancouver.ca>, Sharon Thompson <sthompson@westvancouver.ca>, Nora Gambioli <ngambioli@westvancouver.ca>
Cc: <correspondence@westvancouver.ca>

Dear Mayor and Council

It is with dismay that I read of a location for the arts facility, way out in Horseshoe Bay. Some years ago, Cornerstone did some outstanding research on where preferred locations could be. **All potential locations were located centrally in Ambleside or Dundarave.** This would also support the Economic Plan's objectives to have the arts boost these commercial areas.

Other reasons for identifying a more central location were that it would allow people to get there using public transit, bikes or on foot. It would be on people's way to or from somewhere in their daily lives. It would have the added benefit of providing social and community benefits. And it would also attract non-locals to spend time in the area.

Our museum is a jewel. Why stick it way out in Horseshoe Bay? I realize this might be unintentional but it feels disrespectful. For the vast majority of West Van residents, Horseshoe Bay is a destination that requires effort and planning to get to. And when you do, where do you park?

How come there is so much money for centralized sports facilities - a massively expensive track and now a new sports dome, in addition to the outdoor fitness park that materialized in Ambleside Park (all without public consultation)? Yet when it comes to the arts, that community gets a facility that needs renovation, is not purpose built and is stuck out on the edge of our geography where most of us don't go very often? Ferry traffic is **not** the primary target market for an arts facility - the general public is. Horseshoe Bay is pretty, don't get me wrong, but it's not exactly a regular destination for people who don't live there or who are not heading for a ferry.

You owe us an explanation of your process. You owe us an explanation of why you have disregarded the thorough research we paid for. You owe us the decency of a public consultation. Many, many residents have a vested interest in this arts facility and from what I'm hearing, the arts community is disappointed, shocked and confused by this surprise announcement.

We look forward to an explanation of your process and rationale. We look forward to an opportunity to provide our input.

Best

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

West Vancouver BC
[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2025 12:04 PM
To: correspondence; Mark Sager, Mayor; Christine Cassidy; Linda Watt; Nora Gambioli; Peter Lambur; Scott Snider; Sharon Thompson
Subject: WV Art Museum Re-Location

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Feb 27 2025

To Mayor and Council.

Your announcement on Monday Feb 24 that the West Vancouver Art Museum would be re-located to an old existing building in Horseshoe Bay came as a complete surprise and big disappointment.

As much as the WVAM needs a new home, moving it away from the centre of the community, to a building requiring a major retrofit without a clear source of funding, in a location lacking in walkability, easy transit, and proximity to shops and retail outlets that could contribute to its success—and their own—by boosting economic activity, is both wrongheaded and shortsighted.

The fact that the decision was taken without any community consultation and behind closed doors, with not a mention of any such consideration presented at a public council meeting, is even more egregious.

Literally years of research, much of it funded by the District itself, guided by knowledgeable staff, expert consultants, and dedicated volunteers, revealed that West Vancouverites love their arts, want them close by, so they can walk, take a bus or park easily near them. More than a dozen sites were identified as District-owned properties that could accommodate both a new Art Museum and much-needed studio and education space for people of all ages. Horseshoe Bay was never on the radar and yet here we seemingly have a done deal that no one had a chance to review.

It is unacceptable for Council to act without community consultation, especially on projects known to be both desired and the subject of great sensitivity.

On your website, under Government & Administration, you state: "The District of West Vancouver is committed to governing under fiscal best practices, to the highest ethical standards, with a commitment to transparency, and with the goal of including as many citizens as possible in Council meetings, community consultations and the democratic process."

Where was your commitment to best fiscal practices, the highest ethical standards, full transparency, and the democratic process when it comes to this latest announcement?

West Vancouver citizens deserve better than to have decisions of major expense and significance made behind our backs and then announced as a done deal.

I look forward to clarification of how and why you came to your decision to relocate the Art Museum to Horseshoe Bay, how much you paid for the site, and how you expect to pay for the extensive retrofit that's obviously required. I would also like to know how you plan to address the vital issue of community consultation on this issue in future.

s. 22(1)

West Vancouver, BC s. 22(1)

s. 22(1)

From: David Marley <domarley52@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 7:59 PM
To: correspondence; Mark Sager, Mayor; Christine Cassidy; Nora Gambioli; Peter Lambur; Scott Snider; Sharon Thompson; Linda Watt
Subject: "Surrey leads revolt against Metro" - February 26th edition

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization from email address domarley52@gmail.com. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe this e-mail is suspicious, please report it to IT by marking it as SPAM.

FYI. The self-induced implosion of Metro Vancouver continues apace. Why does DWV Council remain mute about Metro's massive cock-up, and apparent cover-up efforts, respecting its NSWWTP project, instead of doing your job and representing the people you claim to serve by adding your voice to the demand for an immediate public inquiry and, if circumstances warrant, a special prosecutor?

I hereby request that neither my name nor contact information be redacted from this communication.

David Marley

s. 22(1)

West Vancouver, BC

s. 22(1)

604-926-8994

From: David Marley <domarley52@gmail.com>
Date: February 26, 2025 at 6:55:38 PM PST
To: Editor <sunletters@vancouver.sun.com>
Subject: "Surrey leads revolt against Metro" - February 26th edition

In commenting upon the apparent dispute between the City of Surrey and the Metro Vancouver regional government, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Ravi Kahlon, is quoted as saying, "It's easy to walk away...but what we need them to do is get to the table and find solutions, work together." Excuse me but isn't this the same Minister Kahlon who for months now has been doing a 'Pontius Pilate' by conspicuously evading his responsibilities respecting Metro's massive overspending on its North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant project? This guy knows all about "walking away".

Metro Vancouver continues to operate in the shadows concerning this seriously troubled infrastructure project, apparently going so far as to recently commence a secret investigation into itself, to be conducted by an unknown entity, with unknown qualifications, appointed by unknown means, working according to unknown terms of reference and with an unknown reporting date. This is a farce!

Minister Kahlon must do his job here and immediately initiate a public inquiry pursuant to section 764 of the Local Government Act, a statutory provision which is tailor-made for circumstances such as these.

David Marley
Chairman,
North Shore Neighbourhoods Alliance (“NSNA”)
BLOCKEDnsna[.]caBLOCKED
West Vancouver, BC

604-926-8994

From: [Redacted] s. 22(1)
Sent: Saturday, March 1, 2025 12:25 PM
To: Mark Sager, Mayor; correspondence; John Lo (WVDP)
Subject: URGENT: Cathy Peters- Hard drugs full decriminalization needs to be repealed in BC- this may stop Trump tariffs
Attachments: Lower Mainland Mayors presentation.pdf

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Dear West Vancouver District Council,
 The **full decriminalization of hard drugs is normalizing hard drug usage in British Columbia**, particularly among youth and the vulnerable.
 Sex and drug trafficking go together and are escalating in every corner of BC.

ASK: Please alert Premier David Eby that this law must be repealed.
 It is causing devastating harm.
 This may then STOP the Trump tariffs and **show the USA government that Canada is serious about stopping fentanyl use, production, sale and shipment.**
 The impact of tariffs and hard drug usage is devastating to BC and Canada.

Please view the summary from CBC's Rosemary Barton's interview with **US Advisor and National Security expert David Asher** on February 10, 2025.

- 3 steps are needed:**
- Secure the border,
 - Shutdown drug labs (largest superlab in the world just shut down in Vancouver),
 - Get rid of the laws that protect criminals and cartels (institute a RICO Act like in the USA: Racketeering Influence Corrupt Organizations Act).

Addressing fentanyl was emphasized at the first Trump Cabinet meeting as the main problem with Canada.
British Columbia is the weak link for fentanyl use, procurement, development, shipments.

Attached is my presentation to **23 Mayors from the Lower Mainland.**
 The second edition of my book will be available on Amazon on March 1st.

ASK: Please let me know if you have alerted the Premier.

Sincerely, Cathy Peters phone: [Redacted] s. 22(1)
 BC anti human trafficking educator, speaker, advocate
 beamazingcampaign.org
 [Redacted] s. 22(1)
 North Vancouver, BC [Redacted] s. 22(1)
 Queens' Platinum Jubilee Medal recipient for my anti human trafficking advocacy work
 Author: **Child Sex Trafficking in Canada and How to Stop It**

Lower Mainland Mayors presentation: Friday, January 17, 2025.

Thank you. My name is Cathy Peters. I was an inner city high school teacher 45 years ago.

For the past 11 years I have been raising awareness about the crime of **Human Sex Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation, and Child Sex Trafficking.**

It is the fastest growing crime globally, in Canada and locally. BC is vulnerable with 3 ports, international airports, easy access to the USA border.

My website: **beamazingcampaign.org**

My new book: **Child Sex Trafficking in Canada and How to Stop It.** I have just completed the second edition.

I have 2 new booklets: for **Indigenous and Public Health providers.** These should be available to every band and hospital in BC.

I am observing 5 Trends:

1. With the full decriminalization of hard drugs in BC, drug use amongst youth has exploded and become normalized/accepted. Once youth are easily hooked, they will sell their bodies to get more drugs. Sex trafficking explodes. Full decriminalization of hard drugs needs to be repealed.
2. With massive immigration and a weakened economy in Canada human trafficking, crime, prostitution is increasing.
3. Sexting (sending nude photos) is being normalised so sextortion, online grooming, luring, and recruiting for the sex industry is increasing. There is an increase in the sexualization of youth/children. Which in turn increases childhood sexual assault/incest, and child-on-child sexual assault.
4. There is a lack of digital safety training, social media accountability, positive parenting support and **lack of education to teach men and boys NOT to exploit women and girls.**
5. The unchecked development of artificial intelligence (AI).

Human trafficking is the recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing, harbouring or exercising control over a person for the purpose of exploiting them.

STATS:

-13 years old is the average age of recruitment. In cities- 10-12 year olds.

-50%-90% in the sex trade are Indigenous.

-82% involved in prostitution had childhood sexual abuse/incest.

-72% live with complex PTSD.

-95% in prostitution want to leave- it is NOT a choice or a job.

-90%-99% of prostituted persons are pimped or trafficked- organized crime and international crime syndicates are involved.

-Only 1-5% of individuals get out of the sex industry. The majority experience mental illness, drug addiction, commit suicide or are murdered.

The most notorious cases in Canada are from the Lower Mainland:

Amanda Todd (victim), **Robert Pickton** (sex buyer and gruesome serial killer), **Reza Moazami** (trafficker).

I have been raising awareness about sexual exploitation and Child Sex Trafficking, to every City Council, Regional District, MLA, MP, school board and police agency in BC since **The Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA)** became Federal Law in 2014, so that police would enforce it, the public would understand it and be able to report it.

The Law has 4 parts:

1. Targets the DEMAND by criminalizing the buyers of sex and profiteers.

2. Recognizes the seller of sex as a victim, who is immune from prosecution.

3. Exit strategies are in place to assist the victim out of the sex trade.

4. Robust prevention education programs are in place so youth, children and the vulnerable are not pulled into the sex industry.

This Law focuses on the **source of harm**: the buyers of sex and the profiteers. The clear statement from Parliament was that girls and women in Canada are

NOT FOR SALE; that they are full human beings, with dignity and human rights.

This LAW is not enforced in BC, so prostitution is de facto legalized. **Unless the sex buyers are deterred this crime will continue to explode.**

Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal are global sex tourism hotspots. Canada is a **Child Sex Tourism** destination.

The global sex trade is growing FAST, targeting children (children is where the money is), fueled by the internet where most of the luring is taking place. The US Surgeon General is recommending no social media platforms until ages 16-18 years of age, and no smartphones until at least age 15. Dumbphones are a better option than smartphones. Phones need to be removed from schools in BC.

Contributing factors to a rapidly growing sex industry is **globalization, unregulated technology, limited law enforcement and very little prevention education.**

Canada has a new **National Human Trafficking Hotline number: 1-833-900-1010.** Provincially VictimLink has a helpline.

Communities need to: **Reduce Demand** by addressing complicit businesses. **Diminish Supply** by education and public awareness.

Businesses involved; unregistered massage and body rub parlours, nail spas, day spas, modelling agencies, tattoo parlours, escort services, cheap bars and hotels, men's clubs, AirBnB, VRBO, casinos, strip clubs, organized crime club houses, bus stops, homeless camps, tent cities, can be typical covers for sexual exploitation.

Prostitution is ILLEGAL in Canada. Sweden has the similar law as Canada, where men and boys understand gender equality, so prostitution is not accepted or normalized there. So, it is possible to stop sexual exploitation. **The KEY is to reach the Premier, so he understands the Federal Law needs to be enforced.** I have an example template letter for the Premier.

The sex industry is targeting youth online. Schools are **recruiting grounds for gangs even in elementary schools**. An effective deterrent is the **School Liaison Officer Program**; officers prevent crime and protect the vulnerable.

Pornography is a public health crisis. Along with childhood sexual assault, pornography is a pipeline to prostitution. Online pornography is grooming our children. Mass-scale prevention education is needed in this country.

Who are the victims? Typically, female but due to popularity of online gaming sites a growing number of boys.

Who are the traffickers? Typically male, with some female traffickers who recruit their peers. Traffickers today are highly organized, sophisticated, move fast; organized crime and even sometimes family members are involved.

Who are the buyers? Male buyers from all ages and demographics are the root cause of the harm caused by human trafficking. If there were no buyers there would be no business.

What is needed to stop this crime in BC?

1. The enforcement of the **Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons ACT** (PCEPA), that criminalizes the sex buyer, profiteer and trafficker, while acknowledging that the seller of sex is a victim.
2. Additional funding and programs to help trafficked person out of prostitution.
3. A provincial public awareness campaign to stop sexual exploitation plus school education- especially teaching boys not to exploit women and girls.
4. A Human Trafficking Task Force similar to drugs and gangs and updating of provincial police policies in line with PCEPA.
5. Education for crown counsel and judiciary.

QUESTIONS (my words in brief):

Mayor Mike Little- District of North Vancouver- *Why is this occurring in BC and not elsewhere?*

Ans: Political will is the key. The Premier is the Key.

Mayor Linda Buchanan- City of North Vancouver- *No campaign here- Why? USA has posters in airports.*

Ans: No awareness campaigns by the government. But Paul Brandt with “Not in My City” NGO out of Alberta is training Canadian airports, and training police (Maddison Sessions).

Mayor Brenda Locke- Surrey- *Schools? School Boards? Do they know about this?*

Ans: They are difficult to reach. Terrace School Board is an exception.

Mayor Richard Stewart- Coquitlam- *Mental health issues? Any recognition of this?*

Ans: No medical, nursing or social work program address this issue in Canada. Mental health for our youth is at risk today.

MAYORS:

Membership: 23

Locke, Brenda (C) – Surrey

West, Brad (VC) – Port Coquitlam

Berry, Ken – Lions Bay

Brodie, Malcolm – Richmond

Buchanan, Linda – North Vancouver City

Cassidy, Laura – Tsawwassen First Nation

Harvie, George V. – Delta

Hurley, Mike – Burnaby

Johnstone, Patrick – New Westminster

Knight, Megan – White Rock

Lahti, Meghan – Port Moody

Leonard, Andrew – Bowen Island

Little, Mike – North Vancouver District

MacDonald, Nicole – Pitt Meadows

McCutcheon, Jen – Electoral Area A

McEwen, John – Anmore

Pachal, Nathan – Langley City

Ross, Jamie – Belcarra

Ruimy, Dan – Maple Ridge

Sager, Mark – West Vancouver

Sim, Ken – Vancouver

Stewart, Richard – Coquitlam

Woodward, Eric – Langley Township

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 11:06 AM
To: Mark Sager, Mayor; Christine Cassidy; Nora Gambioli; Peter Lambur; Scott Snider; Sharon Thompson; Linda Watt; correspondence
Cc: Evison Michael; Mclsaac Graham; Paterson Mike; Smith Don; Scott Findlay; Isabel V. Gordon
Subject: F&RAC report, of February 26th, to Council concerning District budget for 2025

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I read with great interest and growing appreciation this report of the District's Finance and Revenue Advisory Committee to Council. In 34 years of living in West Vancouver, and following the District's annual budget and related matters with relatively close attention, sometimes more, I have never read such an excellent piece of work dealing with these matters. It is clear, concise and its recommendations sensible and obviously well-considered. The tables and graphs are especially helpful in explaining a complex subject. Council will be well-advised to follow the Committee's recommendations and, after giving its volunteer members a decent break, put them to work on related matters in need of their attention. As for our Mayor and Councillor Watt, no rest for the wicked!

The members of the committee and District staff who provided them with assistance deserve a great deal of thanks for their efforts. Council and, in particular, our Mayor deserve major praise for creating this committee, approving appropriate terms of reference for it and appointing some very able and experienced individuals to it.

Well done!

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

West Vancouver, BC

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Sent: Sunday, March 2, 2025 4:55 PM
To: Mark Sager, Mayor; Sharon Thompson; Nora Gambioli; Peter Lambur; Linda Watt; Christine Cassidy; Scott Snider; correspondence
Subject: RE: Amendment to the Wildfire Hazard DPA Designation

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Dear Mayor, Councillors and Staff,

I am writing with regards to the Amendment to the Wildfire Hazard DPA Designation which is now proposed to include properties District wide as presented at the Council meeting on Monday Feb. 24th 2025.

Councilor Gambioli raised the important question as to how it would be possible to maintain the tree canopy targets as set out in the Urban Forest Management Plan.

Councilor Thompson raised the important question of using technology, remote sensing systems which have the ability to alert authorities before fires are otherwise detected.

I recommend a pause in the above proposal before such drastic measures cause many unintended consequences. The interruption of our cool moist micro- climate by the loss of trees will contribute to lack of cooling and shading, flooding, landslides and disturbances to wildlife habitats.

Residents are fearful of fires impacting their properties but the decisions regarding the approach to manage wildfires must be based on science appropriate to our type of forests and climate.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)
[REDACTED] s. 22(1)
[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

West Vancouver

[REDACTED] s. 22(1)
[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 4:24 PM
To: correspondence
Subject: District of West Vancouver Using X Concern

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From: [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
Subject: Social media: Supreme Court of Canada moving away from X
Date: March 3, 2025 at 3:03:31 PM PST
To: mark@westvancouver.ca, ngamboli@westvancouver.ca

BLOCKEDctvnews[.]ca/sci-tech/article/supreme-court-of-canada-moving-away-from-social-media-platform-x/BLOCKED

Hi, I know that the District of West Vancouver is committed to keeping all its residents informed through clear, accessible and responsible communication so I am suggesting that it stop using the social media platform X because of concerns about respect, reliability and the amplification of far right views and misinformation.

West Vancouver news and updates can be shared through other social media platforms as well as the District's own website. In light of the fact that the Supreme Court of Canada is moving away from X I think the District of West Vancouver should join the District of North Vancouver in this important decision.

Concerned resident,

[REDACTED] s. 22(1) West Vancouver, BC [REDACTED] s. 22(1)
[REDACTED] s. 22(1)

From: Patrick Weiler <Patrick.Weiler@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 7:31 PM
To: correspondence
Subject: [BULK] February 2025 Digital Newsletter

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization from email address bounce_167a9e78-4df6-ef11-90cb-0022482a93b5_prod@bounce.myngp.com. Do not click links or open attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe. If you believe this e-mail is suspicious, please report it to IT by marking it as SPAM.

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Patrick Weiler
Member of Parliament for West Vancouver-
Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

@patrickbweiler  patrick.weiler@parl.gc.ca
    604 913 2660

Highlights of the Month

Dear Mayor and Council,

With the illegal and unjustified threat of tariffs from President Trump, our communities and country have come together in a show of unity and pride in a way that I have not seen since our region hosted the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

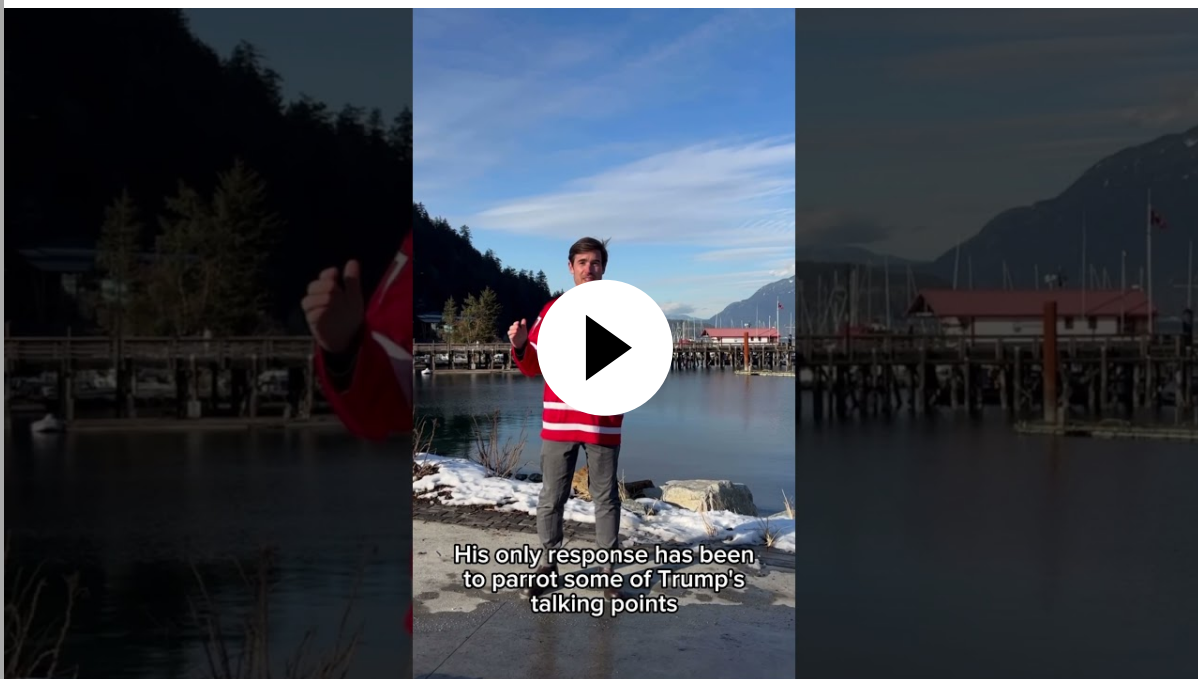
Fittingly, our region welcomed the world for the Invictus Games in Whistler, showcasing the extraordinary spirit of veteran-athletes who have overcome incredible challenges to compete in the games. Thank you to all those who organized an incredible games, and congratulations to all the athletes who inspire us all.

Canadian pride was on display as we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our Canadian flag. Check out the video below to learn what the flag means to me. But perhaps nothing brought Canadians together more than [watching and celebrating Canada win the championship game against the United States](#) at the Four Nations Face Off. Hockey is Canada's game, now and forever.

My Constituency Office hosted our annual Open House this month. Thank you to all those who were able to attend, to meet me and my team, and to share your priorities for our community, and how we can be of service to you.

This month also had some major announcements for our communities. I was excited to announce that we are working with local governments and Greenline Ferries to [establish regular electric foot passenger ferry service that will connect the Sunshine Coast, Bowen Island and Vancouver](#). This service would be a gamechanger for so many residents on the Coast, Bowen, and across the region. This was made possible by federal investment tax credits for clean technology.

I also made a trio of important housing announcements. This included [\\$17 million in federal financing to build 44 new, energy efficient affordable rental homes in Squamish](#). With Mayor Jack Crompton, I announced federal funding to support work with the RMOW to speed up their permitting systems to [build 814 additional homes in Whistler](#) over the next decade with a focus on workforce housing. I also announced federal funding to assist the Squamish Nation to expedite their housing planning and permitting system that alone would allow 75% of nation members who live off reserve to return home. These are just two examples of the over \$260 million in federal affordable housing investments made in our riding since I was first elected in 2019. In that time, I am proud to say that I have delivered close to half a billion dollars in infrastructure and housing funding for our communities.



Federal Government Updates

Ukraine Rally

February 24 marked three years since Russia's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal invasion of Ukraine. Canada stands with the brave people of Ukraine who have suffered so much and sacrificed everything to defend their country, as well as democracy freedom and the international order from tyranny. We need to stand with our European allies to support Ukraine and to stop Putin.

I had the privilege of addressing hundreds at a rally in Vancouver to demonstrate Canada's solidarity with the Ukrainian people, not least because our country is made up of 1.5 million Canadians of Ukrainian descent. Slava Ukraini!



Constituency Updates

2025 Constituency Open House

Thanks to everyone who came out to our Open House this month! Appreciate connecting with so many of you and hearing about your priorities in West Vancouver Sunshine Coast and Sea to Sky and for Canada.



New Energy Efficient Affordable Homes in Squamish

This month, I announced \$17 million in federal funding to build 44 new affordable rental homes in Squamish. These homes will save money through state of the art energy efficiency designs and provide much needed housing supply to help residents live, work and play in our growing community.



Affordable Homes in Whistler for Today and Tomorrow

On February 20, I joined Whistler Mayor Jack Crompton in announcing \$2.5 million in federal funding to build 814 homes over the next decade through the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund.

This investment will focus on providing much needed workforce housing, speeding up permitting processes and leveraging public land to get homes built now, including 62 in the next couple years.



Celebrating the Renewal of the shishálh Nation-British Columbia Foundation Agreement

It was a great honour to attend a historic ceremony at the shishálh Nation Longhouse on February 25th to celebrate the renewal of the Foundation Agreement between the B.C. Provincial Government and shishálh Nation.

In 2018, shishálh Nation and B.C. signed a landmark long-term, phased reconciliation agreement focused on strengthening government-to-government relations, recognizing shishálh Nation inherent rights and title and formalizing decision-making structures between the Province and the shishálh Nation.

The shishálh Nation and the Province of British Columbia chose a new path in 2018 to work together on the process of reconciliation. I'm excited to see this shared commitment renewed and updated, and I look forward to collaborating to plan and bring positive outcomes to the entire Sunshine Coast.

Invictus Games 2025

From the opening ceremony at BC Place to the celebrations in Whistler, we welcomed and celebrated 550 competitors from up to 25 nations to compete in adaptive sports. But none of this would be possible without the amazing army of volunteers who made it happen.



Seniors Minister Thompson in Squamish

We also welcomed this month the Minister of Seniors, the Honourable Joanne Thompson to The Squamish Men's Shed. Men's Shed is an incredible organization that brings senior men together to do woodworking projects for the community. It also provides an opportunity for men to get together to mitigate social isolation and tackle issues related to men's health.

Thank you to the Men's Shed Canada's (MSC) President, Robert Goluch, participants, and of course Minister Thompson for taking the time to meet and discuss the future of MSC.



National Ski and Snowboard Day

Thank you to the Canadian Ski Council for inviting me to celebrate Canada's first annual National Ski and Snowboard Day (Feb 21) right here in Whistler! Being on the mountain is my happy place, and so I fully support this new nationwide initiative to highlight the many benefits of skiing and snowboarding and to encourage Canadians to stay active during the colder months.



Supporting our Community

I want to give a special shout out to the Squamish Helping Hands Society for another successful turn out for the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser. This year, with support from the wonderful community, they raised \$92,000!

Years from now, many may be asked where you were when Connor McDavid made the historic game winning overtime goal in the 4 Nations Face-Off final. [I will be lucky enough to say that I got to celebrate with folks at The Backyard in Squamish.](#) This wasn't just a win for the amazing players and hockey-fans, but a truly win for all Canadians at a time when we needed it most.



Meeting with Bowen Island Council

Rounding off the month, I had an excellent catch up with folks on Bowen Council. We were able to chat about community building plans and progress on the new federally funded community centre and multi use pathway, and the future of Greenline ferries on the Island.

Passing of the Aga Khan

I was saddened to hear that Prince Karim Aga Khan IV passed away on February 4. My heartfelt condolences to the Ismaili Muslim community here in our riding and around the world. A bridge builder and compassionate global leader, he leaves an extraordinary legacy and will be deeply missed.

I wish Prince Rahim al-Hussaini, Aga Khan V, all the very best in taking on this important mantle.

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